



McGREGOR W. SCOTT

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel 916/554-2700
TTY 916/554-2877

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

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Contact: David L. Gappa
(559) 497-4020
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

VISALIA RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 121- MONTH PRISON TERM FOR RECEIVING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that OSCAR ANGEL GUTIERREZ, 53, of Visalia, California was sentenced today by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill for receiving and possessing visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The sentence includes a federal prison term of 121 months, followed by a lifetime term of supervised release during which his access to minors, computers, and the Internet will be restricted. The defendant will be also be required to register as a sex offender and participate in a sex offender treatment and therapy program.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Visalia Police Department and the Fresno Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Sheila Oberto, who prosecuted the case, GUTIERREZ pleaded guilty on August 6, 2007 without any agreement with the government. Court records indicate that the case began on July 29, 2006, when GUTIERREZ was arrested at a Kohl's department store in Visalia after he was caught taking pictures up the mini-skirt of a young female in the purse department. When a search warrant was executed at his residence, investigators located a personal computer that contained thousands of images of child pornography, including hard core images of adults sexually abusing very young children.

In addition, investigators discovered on the computer hundreds of images of young females that the defendant had taken with a digital camera at various locations in the Visalia area, including at numerous department stores, book stores, and other retail establishments. The judge agreed with the government that the defendant was a predator, and in imposing the sentence requested by the government, commented that these victims had been violated without having done anything to invite it. The judge agreed to impose a special condition of the defendant's supervised release that he not be allowed to photograph anyone in the future without their express permission.

GUTIERREZ has been in federal custody since August 16, 2007.

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